



Re: Huge News from Day Owen

esseneinfo to: Scott Downey

07/13/2011 10:39 PM

History:

This message has been replied to.

This article is from the front page of Monday's register Guard,
please share it with Jill Bloom and Chad, as well as Captain Kauffman.
Thanks, Scott -- Day Owen

-----Original Message-----

From: Downey.Scott <Downey.Scott@epamail.epa.gov>

To: ESSENEINFO <ESSENEINFO@aol.com>

Sent: Fri, May 6, 2011 12:20 pm

Subject: Re: Huge News from Day Owen

Yes, I did

Officials to hear pesticide concerns

Triangle Lake residents will meet with state and federal agencies

BY SUSAN PALMER

The Register-Guard

TRIANGLE LAKE — In what activists call a watershed event, state and federal officials will meet Thursday with Triangle Lake area residents concerned about herbicide exposure.

The meeting is a key step in an accelerated response to years of complaints that have now put the Triangle Lake area at the forefront of state policy on herbicide pollution.

The Oregon Health Authority has been crafting an investigation into allegations that herbicide drift from aerial spraying may be sickening residents in the Highway 36 corridor.

While some community members have been complaining about spray drift for years, it took recent test results showing the presence of two herbicides in residents' urine to prompt government agencies to take a closer look at the question of herbicide drift.

Private forestland owners often spray herbicides on clear-cuts to cut down the competition from weeds and brush that can slow the growth of young trees.

Anti-pesticide activists are calling the meeting a cornerstone event because it will involve both federal and state officials.

Organized by the state's Pesticide Analytical Response Center, the meeting will include representatives from the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Two federal agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will also attend.

"This is the first time that the voice of the people and their conviction that their health is being harmed by pesticides has been coupled with medical data and has actually been acknowledged by our elected officials," said Lisa Arkin, executive director of the Eugene-based conservation nonprofit group Oregon Toxics Alliance.

In April, area residents went to the Board of Forestry and presented results of tests done on their urine by Dana Barr, a research professor at Georgia-based Emory University's Environmental and Occupational Health Department. Barr, a former researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is considered an expert in assessing human exposure to toxic compounds.

The range of state and federal officials attending the meeting points out the challenge that herbicide drift represents. While the federal EPA is responsible for regulating pesticide use nationwide, the Oregon Department of Forestry oversees applications of herbicides on private forests.

The state Department of Agriculture, meanwhile, has the regulatory responsibility for making sure the state complies with federal law, while the state Pesticide Analytical and Response Center, investigates and responds to complaints. PARC includes representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality and the Health Authority.

Herbicides are a type of pesticide.

"We feel this is an appropriate approach to responding to people's concerns," Department of Agriculture spokesman Bruce Pokarney said Monday. "Using PARC and the expertise of its members gives us a really good opportunity to find answers to the questions that people have."

At the Thursday meeting, community members will have the opportunity to ask questions and to learn more about how the investigation will be done.

The Highway 36 corridor is characterized by steep timbered slopes, much of it privately owned, with people living on farms and scattered homes lower down in the narrow stream-carved valleys.

The corridor runs through the Coast Range, from Mapleton at the western end, through communities such as Swisshome, Deadwood, Triangle Lake and Blachly, and on into Cheshire.

The meeting will give people the opportunity to be involved in the investigation, Pokarney said.

"We're looking for the cooperation of the community in the investigation. At the meeting, they'll learn what opportunities there are to participate," he said.

Herbicide MEETING

State agencies will outline their response to complaints about herbicide drift

When: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday

Where: Triangle Grange Hall, 20264 Blachly Grange Road

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see the earlier article. We also have the presentation by Dr. Barr and you should know that EPA is following up to learn more. In fact, there's a lot of activity occurring within EPA, ATSDR, and Oregon agencies that has been inspired by this information. Have a good weekend, Scott

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From: ESSENEINFO@aol.com  
To: Scott Downey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 05/06/2011 12:26 PM  
Subject: Re: Huge News from Day Owen

Scott, several days prior to this article I sent a lengthier one from Register Guard. Did you get that one? -- Day

In a message dated 5/6/2011 8:28:50 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, Downey.Scott@epamail.epa.gov writes:  
Day - thanks for sharing the Eugene Weekly article. Scott

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